



To: Michigan State House Natural Resources and Recreation Committee
FM: Michigan Forest Products Council
Re: Support for HB 5333
Date: 2-4-2020

The Michigan Forest Products Council supports House Bill 5333 and we urge you to move forward on the bill with the following concerns addressed. There are always unforeseen consequences to legislation and as we continue to review this legislation we are looking for improvements. One area of concern would be the ability of the MI Department of Natural Resources to continue administration of the registered forester program. This important program has 237 registered forester members and is continuing to grow. The program has gained a total of 26 since moving administration from LARA to DNR in mid-2018.

The Michigan DNR timber program is essential for the forest products industry raw material supply. The monies paid for timber products to the MI DNR and held in the Forest Development Fund need to be protected and to only be used for the forest management and practices defined in this legislation.

The Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) works to promote, protect and sustain a globally competitive forest products industry in Michigan. MFPC is a statewide organization representing the forest products industry, which owns millions of acres of timberland and employs over 96,600 men and women in Michigan. We urge you to vote "Yes" on House Bill 5333. Feel free to contact us for any comments, clarification or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Scott Robbins
Director of SFI and Forest Policy